

## Ardella (Martinez) Pierce (1945–2007): A Tribute

Ardella Pierce, age 62, a longtime mainstay of the editorial team of *The Ohio Journal of Science*, died unexpectedly on 18 April 2007 at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo, Ohio. The cause of death was ARDS (Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome). She was the assistant editor of The Ohio Academy of Science's journal and a part-time secretary in the English Department, Bowling Green State University. In addition to her devoted and outstanding editorial assistance, she befriended the Academy's staff members and countless authors whom she assisted.



Ardella Martinez, born 18 April 1945 in Poteet, Texas, was the daughter of Gregorio (George) and Ramona (Almarez) Martinez. She graduated from Eastwood High School, Pemberville, Ohio (1963).

From May 1989 until her passing, Ardella worked as a part-time academic-year secretary in the English Department at BGSU. She helped the chair's secretary and provided secretarial support for the English as a Second Language program. While Ardella was working at BGSU, she learned about the vacant post of assistant editor of the Academy's *Ohio Journal of Science*. She inquired of Lee Meserve, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at BGSU and also then the editor of the journal, about the position. Joining the journal's editorial staff in April 1990, she began working at a time when electronic options were primitive, but she mastered them and kept the journal in good production.

During her 17 years of service with the Academy, Ardella played a significant role in publishing the journal. Her title changed under different editorships, beginning as assistant editor; then proofreader and typesetting person; and eventually as typesetting and page layout person, and editorial proofreader. These titles reflected the range of responsibilities that she held. She assisted four editors: Lee Meserve (April 1990-1995), Thomas Schmidlin (1996-2000), Isadore Newman (2001-June 2004), and Kerry L. Cheesman (September 2004-April 2007). She helped in publishing volumes 90 (issue 4, September 1990) to 107 (issue 2, April 2007), consisting of 80 issues and about 5,000 pages.

Several editors with whom Ardella worked considered her a friend and maintained contact with her after they left their editorial posts. Personable and friendly, she was interactive with *OJS* authors and editorial staff members as well as with the Academy personnel. In her editorial work she was diligent and attentive to details. Through her numerous years of service Ardella provided an element of continuity and institutional memory that was crucial to the smooth and orderly transition from one editor to the next. From experience she learned what worked and what would not work. She was able to predict problems and prevent them as well as to resolve those that occurred. Ardella developed a thorough knowledge of editorial processes, including such challenges as dealing with schedule delays or with the frustrations of authors and deadlines. The Academy deeply misses her.

An avid reader, Ardella also enjoyed a number of other pastimes, including knitting and crocheting, traveling with her family, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She loved her family, and that love nurtured a bond of closeness and compassion among its members. For over 20 years she was a member of the Dayspring Assembly of God in Bowling Green, Ohio. Her association with the church played a significant role in her life. She taught in the young girls' program and took part in the prayer ministry. According to one member of the church, Ardella was a wonderful person and made countless friends wherever she went.

Surviving Ardella are daughter Yolinda Kaye Pierce of Flint, Michigan; son Gregory Allen (Julia) Pierce of Bowling Green, Ohio; mother Ramona Sooke of Pemberville, Ohio; brothers John Martinez of Toledo, Ohio, Roy (Jill) Martinez of Catawba, Ohio, and Michael (Joy) Martinez of Kent, Washington; sisters Eve Sabo of Perrysburg, Ohio, and Mary Bortel of Jacksonville, Florida; step-sister Lila (Ken) Eaton of Monclova, Ohio; and two grandchildren, Elizabeth Ann Brubaker and Anna Lynn Pierce. Ardella was preceded in death by her husband Arnold Pierce, whom she had married on 21 November 1964 in Gibsonburg, Ohio. She was also predeceased by her father and step-father Sam Sooke. Visitation hours were held on 20 April 2007 at the Marsh Funeral Homes, Pemberville. Memorial services were conducted on 21 April 2007 at Dayspring Assembly of God in Bowling Green and were preceded by additional visitation hours. Rev. Steve Davis officiated. Ardella was cremated, and her ashes remain with the family. Memorial contributions may be made to Dayspring Assembly of God Women's Ministry, 17360 North Dixie Highway, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

-- WILLIAM R. BURK, acting chair  
Necrology Committee